(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether these Government schools need a considerable improvement;

(d) if so, whether such improvements have been identified by Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the manner in which these improvements would be effected by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) According to 6th All India Education Survey (30th September, 1993) conducted by NCERT, 81.63% of students in rural areas and 46.72% of students in urban areas study in Government or local body schools.

(c) to (f) Most Government schools come under the control of State Governments and which are competent to provide the required facilities. As far as the schools run by the Central Government are concerned, improvement is a continuous process and is attended to from time to time as and when the need arises.

Rape and dowry death

2695. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 44 women are alleged to be raped every day in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 18 dowry deaths are reported every day in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof with the measures to ensure empowerment of women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The National Crime Records Bureau under Ministry of Home Affairs has furnished information relating to cases of rape and dowry death reported in the country during 2001 to 2004 and the average rate thereof per day, which is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The Government has initiated action in the following areas to ensure empowerment of women:—

- enactment of legislations to protect women against domestic violence and sexual harassment at workplace.
- setting up of helplines for women in distress.
- support services to victims of violence through schemes such as Short Stay Homes and Swadhar under which shelter, maintenance, counseling, capacity building, occupational training, medical aid and other services are provided.
- grant-in-aid schemes providing assistance for rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked victims as well as prevention through special schemes in source areas of trafficking.
- redressal of grievances through interventions of National and State Commissions for Women.
- organizing legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Camps.
- implementation of schemes for (i) awarenesss generation and advocacy and (ii) economic empowerment of women through the programmes of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Swashakti Project, Swayamisdha Project, Swawlamban Programme and Support to Training & Employment Programme (STEP).
- periodic review of laws with a view to remove provisions which may be discriminatory to women and to enhance punishments for crimes against women as well as enactment of new laws.
- sensitization of judiciary and police and civil administration on gender issues.
- follow up of reports of cases of atrocities against women received from various sources, including NCW, with concerned authorities in the Central and the State Governments.

'Public order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and as such registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Government of India has been advising the State Governments, from time to time, to give more focused attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and to take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of crime against women and other vulnerable sections of society. The measures suggested include:

- sensitizing of police officials charged with the responsibility of protecting the women;
- viogorously enforce the existing legislation relating to dowry violence;
- set up women police cells in police stations and exclusive women police stations;
- provide institutional support to the victims of violence;
- provide counseling to victims of rape;
- take measures to eliminate trafficking in women. States have also been advised to constitute State Advisory Committees to advise on trafficking matters;
- ensure wider recruitment of women police officers; and
- train police personnel in special laws dealing with atrocities against women.
- Setting up of Fast Track courts.
- Setting up of Family Courts.
- Appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers and notification of rules under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 by the State Governments.

Statement

Information regarding cases of rape and dowry death reported during 2001 to 2004

Sl. No.	Year	Rape		Dowry death	
		Cases reported during the year	Cases per day	Cases reported during the year	Cases per day
1.	2001	16075	44	6851	19
2.	2002	16373	45	6822	19
3.	2003	15847	43	6208	17
4.	2004	16875	46	6006	16

Note:—Figures for 2004 does not include data of Bihar due to its non-availability and are provisional.

Education loans

2696. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Advisory Board for Education has made a strong plea to the commercial banks offering loans for education, as it observed that the beneficiaries of the existing loan system are from rich-affluent families; and

(b) whether the CABE has urged Government to set up a Higher Education Finance Corporation, on the lines of Swaminathan Committee recommendations, to ensure disbursement of loans only to the needy and deserving students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The CABE Committee on Financing of Higher and Technical Education in its report, has recommended to set up a body like Higher Education Finance Corporation (HEFC) with contributions from the government and corporate sector, to coordinate the student loan schemes being operated by several banks and to provide on its own scholarships and soft loans to students. Scholarships need to be an important areas of focus. Both scholarships and loans are to be designed in such a way that economically needy and meritorious students feel assured of the financial assistance.